Doubts still linger at assassination site

By RUTH EYRE
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It was the normal Sunday parade of the curious coming to visit the spot where a president was gunned down 18 years ago.

Normal, but for the hearse that passed by Dealey Plaza shortly after 3 p.m., bound for a Fort Worth cemetery and carrying the body of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Normal, but for the whispers of conspiracies as people looked at the orange-bricked building that formerly was the Texas School Book Depository, at the stark monument to President John F. Kennedy, at the skies rippled with clouds.

"It proves that Oswald was buried in Oswald's grave. What's to be confirmed by that?" asked Richard McLean of 3721 Spring Valley Road. "If it's Oswald's body in there, it is all for naught, if it was not — wow."

Each Sunday, dozens of visitors come to see where Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963, in downtown Dallas. Sunday was no exception. They came from as far away as South America to look and take snapshots. And they still are willing to discuss the questions that have surrounded the death of the president.

"I don't really believe it was done by Oswald," said Ed Hodges of Midland, who was 4 when Kennedy was assassinated. "I think our government did it. For what reason, I don't know. Maybe Kennedy was too liberal."

"I don't think we'll ever get the straight story," said his friend, Joanne Cunha, also of Midland.

Mike Cinolotac Sr., who was visiting from Cleveland, said, "I think there really was a conspiracy. I didn't believe the Warren Commission report."

Steve Cobus of Detroit said, "There have been so many questions raised, I don't think it will ever end."

"The only thing it proved is who was in the grave," said Robin Rivard of Garland. "But I assumed the body that's in the grave is the same body as the person who shot the president. It still doesn't prove that it was a conspiracy or not a conspiracy."

"I was shocked this morning when I heard the news that they had exhumed the body," said Brian Freeman, who moved to Dallas a few months ago.

And George Blanco of Cucuta, Colombia, said, "Either way doesn't make any difference. The harm is already done — to do it is not going to bring a great leader back."